AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Complete Listing of Claims:

1. A composition for inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on non-cellulosic fibres having a moisture regain of ≤5%, comprising;

i) 1 to 50 wt% of at least a self-crosslinkable resin;

ii) 0.25 to 20 wt% of at least a catalyst;

iii) 0.1 to 4 wt% of at least an antimicrobial active agent, reactive with the resin;

iv) 98.65 to 26 wt% of water;

wherein i) + ii) + iii) +iv) = 100%

2. A composition according to claim 1 where the non-cellulosic fibres have an acid value ≤5 mmol/kg.

3. A composition for inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on non-cellulosic fibres having an acid value of ≤5 mmol/kg, comprising;

i) 1 to 50 wt% of at least a self-crosslinkable resin;

ii) 0.25 to 20 wt% of at least a catalyst;

iii) 0.1 to 4 wt% of at least an antimicrobial active agent, reactive with the resin;

iv) 98.65 to 26 wt% of water;

wherein i) + ii) + iii) + iv) = 100%

4. A composition according to claim 3 where the non-cellulosic fibres have a moisture regain of ≤5%.

5. A composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 where the non-cellulosic fibres are selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyamide, polypropylene, polyurethane and cellulose acetate.

6. A composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 where the self-crosslinkable resin is an amino resin.

7. A composition according to claim 6 where the self-crosslinkable resin is a formaldehyde condensate with urea or melamine.

8. A composition according to claim 7 where the self-crosslinkable resin is selected from dimethyloldihydroxyethylene urea and dihydroxydimethylene urea.

9. A composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 where the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of $MgCI_2$; ammonium chloride; ammonium sulphate; ammonium salts of formic acid, boric acid, phosphoric acid, oxalic acid; poly(hexamethylene biguanide) hydrochloride and or mixtures thereof.

10. A composition according to any one of the claims 1 to 8 where the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of $MgCI_2$; ammonium chloride; ammonium sulphate; ammonium salts of formic acid, boric acid, phosphoric acid, oxalic acid; and or mixtures thereof.

11. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 9 where the catalyst is poly(hexamethylene biguanide) hydrochloride.

12. A composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 where the antimicrobial active agent is selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts, biguanides, monoguanides, and or mixtures thereof.

13. A method for inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on non-cellulosic fibres having a moisture regain of ≤5%, comprising stages:

A) contacting the fibres with a composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1;

B) optionally drying the fibres contacted with the composition; and

C) curing the fibres contacted with the composition to effect crosslinking of the resin.

14. A method according to claim 13 where the non-cellulosic fibres have an acid value of ≤5 mmol/kg.

15. A method for inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on non-cellulosic fibres having an acid value of ≤5 mmol/kg, comprising stages:

A) contacting the fibres with a composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1;

B) optionally drying the fibres contacted with the composition; and

C) curing the fibres contacted with the composition to effect crosslinking of the resin.

16. A method according to claim 15 where the non-cellulosic fibres have a moisture regain of ≤5%.

17. A method according to any one of claims 13 to 16 where stage C) is carried out at temperatures in the range of from 100 to 180°C.

18. A method according to any one of claims 13 to 17 where stage C) is carried out for a time in the range of from 30 seconds to 5 minutes.

19. Non-cellulosic fibres having a moisture regain of ≤5% carrying a composition comprising:

(a) 1 to 10 wt% by weight of the non-cellulosic fibres of at least a self-crosslinkable resin; and

(b) 0.1 to 1 wt% by weight of the non-cellulosic fibres of at least an antimicrobial active agent, reached with the resin.

20. Non-cellulosic fibres according to claim 19 having an acid value of ≤5 mmol/kg.

21. Non-cellulosic fibres having an acid value of ≤5 mmol/kg carrying a composition comprising:

(a) 1 to 10 wt% by weight of the non-cellulosic fibres of at least a self-crosslinkable resin; and

(b) 0.1 to 1 wt% by weight of the non-cellulosic fibres of at least an antimicrobial active agent, reacted with the resin.

22. Non-cellulosic fibres according to claim 21 having a moisture regain of ≤5%.

23. Non-cellulosic fibres having a moisture regain of ≤5% treated with a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 11.

24. Non-cellulosic fibres having an acid value of ≤5% mmol/kg treated with a composition according to any one of claims 1 to11.

25. Use of a composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1 in the treatment of non-cellulosic fibres having a moisture regain of ≤ of 5%.

26. Use of a composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1 in the treatment of non-cellulosic fibres having an acid value of ≤5 mmol/kg.